



While shooting practice may not make you perfect, as the old saying goes, it can help improve skills. One way to make your shooting practice more efficient is to simulate the types of shots you will get in the field. For instance, straight-away clay targets may imitate pheasants, but duck hunters seldom get this kind of opportunity.

TIME ON THE RANGE

Shooting Skills Improve with Pre-season Practice

By Craig Bihrie

Some people hone their shooting skills year-round, and you probably know them as the members of your hunting party who seem to bag their limit first and expend the fewest number of shells in doing it. There's one in every crowd.

Many hunters – archery, shotgun, rifle and muzzle-loader – however, fit the mode of the softball player or golfer who dig out their equipment a couple of weeks before the season begins to reacquaint their bodies to the motions of swinging and throwing. A couple of practices may help get bodies acclimated, but they don't help much in skill improvement.

Shooting is like any other athletic endeavor. Consistent practice helps improve skills. One session of trap shooting before grouse season opens is better than no session, but noticeable skill building takes more effort.

Some people might claim they would miss out on a lot of fun if they were better shots, because they wouldn't get to shoot as much, but the fact is that as hunters, we owe it to the game we pursue to shoot well and reduce the possibility of wounding.

Fortunately, North Dakota has a good number of facilities in all parts of the

state where hunters can, at the very least, get in that one session before the season, sight in a rifle, or make a conscious effort to become a better shooter.

The accompanying list highlights many shooting ranges in the state. *OUTDOORS* will republish this list periodically, so if any public range – defined as open to the public, though fees may be charged – has been omitted, please contact us so we can add it in the future.

Shooting ranges may offer space for hunters to pattern shotguns, even if you have to improvise and set up your own targets. For information on an effective method for determining how well your shotgun patterns different types of shotshells, contact the Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300; or email at ndgf@state.nd.us.



Craig Bihle

Author's Note: The following North Dakota outdoor shooting facilities were derived from a number of sources. Contact names are provided for information on operating hours, public and/or membership access, and directions.

We have tried to verify all information included here, but understand we might have inadvertently missed some

facilities with which we were not familiar. We would, however, like to include those facilities in our September-October issue. Clubs or individuals who want to provide information on additions to the list should contact Craig Bihle at 701-328-6317; email cbihle@state.nd.us by July 25.

County	City	Club	Contact (all 701 area code)	Range Information
Barnes	Valley City	Valley City Trap Club	Todd Anderson 646-7223	Four trap shotgun
Barnes	Valley City	Valley City Rifle and Pistol Club	Tom Cruff 845-0123	Rifle, pistol, call for info
Bowman	Scranton	Scranton Rod and Gun Club	Gary Symanowski 275-8807	Two trap shotgun
Bowman	Bowman	City of Bowman	Don Huso 523-5908	100-yard bench rifle, shotgun
Burleigh	Bismarck	ND Game and Fish	Jim Carter 328-6316	Pistol, shotgun, 100/200-yard bench rifle
Burleigh	Moffit	Bis-Man Rifle-Pistol Assoc	Sam May 258-2360	100/200/300-yard bench rifle, rifle/pistol/rimfire silhouettes, 200-1,000-yard bullseye, cowboy action
Burleigh	Bismarck	Capitol City Gun Club	Jerry Gulke 223-9542	13 trap shotgun
Burleigh	Wilton	ND Game and Fish	Jim Carter 328-6316	Rifle range
Cass	Casselton	Cass County Wildlife Club	Lorne Sterner 347-4716	One site: trap shotgun Second site: rifle, pistol
Cass	Horace	The Shooting Park	John Nelson 282-3808	13 trap shotgun, skeet, rifle, pistol
Cass	Kindred	Kindred Wildlife Club	Dave DuBord 428-3442 Neil Dockter 588-4331	Trap shotgun, 100/200-meter bench rifle
Cass	West Fargo	Sandhills Archers	Jerry Langness 239-9966	Indoor and outdoor range, field course, 3D course, broadhead pit
Cavalier	Langdon	Cavalier County Gun Club	Rod Howatt 256-3302	Three trap shotgun
Divide	Crosby	Crosby Gun Club	Toby Placek 965-6505 (h) 965-6488 (w)	One trap shotgun
Dunn	Manning	Slope Area Rifle and Pistol Club	Mary Ingman 483-7826 (w) 483-2904 (h)	Pistol, 100/200/300-yard bench rifle, silhouette
Eddy	Sheyenne	Sheyenne Wildlife Federation	Greg Kolstad 996-2282	Two trap shotgun
Foster	Carrington	Central Dakota Sportsmen Club	Hal Lee 652-2202	100-meter bench rifle, pistol and trap shotgun pending
Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Red River Archers	John Schlieman 775-8096	Outdoor walk-through range
Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Dakota Hunting Club	George Newton 775-2074	Sporting Clays
Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Grand Forks Gun Club	Marv Hanson 746-8096	Trap shotgun
Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Grand Forks Rifle Club	Tom Reiten 775-0008	100/200/300/600-yard bench rifle, 600-yard match, 500-meter silhouette
LaMoure	Kulm	Kulm Rod and Gun Club	Doug Hintzman 647-2646	Trap shotgun and 100-yard bench rifle
McHenry	Anamoose	Anamoose Wildlife Club	Brent Weninger 465-3909	One trap shotgun
McIntosh	Ashley	Ashley Jaycees	Eric Schock 288-3329 Lyle Fey 288-3471	Trap shotgun
McKenzie	Watford City	Badlands Shooters Club	Mark Spravzoff 842-4609 Hal Swearson 842-3986	100/200/300/400-yard bench rifle, two trap shotgun, 25/50-yard .22 pistol



Shooting ranges can get crowded just before hunting seasons; cool summer nights are an ideal time to sight in a rifle, or practice shotgun shooting from different positions.

County	City	Club	Contact (all 701 area code)	Range Information
McKenzie	Williston	ND Game and Fish	Kent Luttschwager 774-4320	100/300-yard bench rifle, hand trap
McLean	Garrison	Garrison Sportsmen Club	Bill Iglehart 463-7442	One trap shotgun, rifle, archery
McLean	Riverdale	ND Game and Fish	Dan Halstead 654-7475	100-yard bench, hand trap
McLean	Turtle Lake	Turtle Lake Trap Club	Bob Sondrol 448-2687	Five trap shotgun, 100-yard bench rifle 1/2 mile north
Mercer	Hazen	Buffalo Valley Archers	Howell Flowers 748-2565	Bow practice; 15-target course
Mercer	Zap	Zap Sportsmen's Club	Tim Kaffar 948-2890	Two trap shotgun, 100-yard rifle
Morton	Mandan	Morton County Park Board	Vern Davis 667-3363	25/50/100-yard bench rifle
Morton	Mandan	Mandan Park District	Mike Zerr 667-3287	Archery target range
Morton	Hebron	Hebron Gun Club	Ken Rehling 878-4212	Trap shotgun, 100/200-yard bench rifle
Mountrail	Stanley	Rolling Plains Sportsmen Club	Louis Kuster 755-3440	Two trap shotgun, 100-yard bench rifle
Nelson	Pekin	Pekin Rod and Gun Club	Jerald Enstad 322-5656 David Morken 296-4484	100/200-yard bench rifle, trap shotgun
Oliver	Center	Oliver County Gun Club	Al Hintz 794-3527 Rick Eide 794-3274	Two trap shotgun, 100/300-yard bench rifle
Pembina	Cavalier	Pembina County Sportsmen Club	Henry Duray 265-4561	Trap shotgun, 100/200-yard pistol/rifle bench, bow
Pierce	Rugby	Rugby Shooting Club	Randy Knain 776-6476	Trap shotgun, 100-yard bench rifle
Richland	Wahpeton/ Breckenridge	Head of the Red Trap Club	Cole Morris, Jr. 642-6505	Trap shotgun
Sargent	Cogswell	Cogswell Gun Club	Milt McLaen 742-6492	Two trap shotgun, 100/300-yard bench rifle
Stark	Dickinson	Rough Rider Archers	Wayne Schatz 483-3320	Bow only
Stutsman	Jamestown	Buffalo City Gun Club	Jeanne Earle 253-5222	Trap shotgun
Stutsman	Jamestown	United Sportsmen	Merle Weatherly 252-2585	25-210-yard bench rifle and pistol, hand trap
Walsh	Grafton	Walsh County Gun Club	Jerry Blanchard 352-1650 Club phone: 284-7952	Trap shotgun, pistol, 100-yard bench rifle
Ward	Minot	Minot Rifle and Pistol Club	Steve Kukowski 839-0909 Club phone: 838-7882	Bench rifle, pistol
Ward	Minot	Souris Valley Bowmen	Jeff Jacob 838-0266	Practice range, two target courses
Wells	Cathay	James River Gun Club	Gerald Reichenberger 984-2379 Gene Sukut 962-3455	Rifle range and hand trap pending
Williams	Williston	Northwest Gun Club	Jeff Wagner 572-6523	Trap shotgun
Williams	Grenora	Tri-County Sportsmen Club	John Haskins 572-7347	Trap shotgun, 100/200-yard bench rifle